

For release upon receipt of Judge Whitman's
Decision adverseing the City's action in putting
up Road signs on Peyton and Harlan Roads

I am issuing immediate instructions to Mr. Ray Nixon, Chief of Construction for the City, to immediately remove the road closing signs on Peyton and Harlan Roads, in keeping with the court order rendered by Judge Whitman.

I am asking the City Attorney, the Honorable Jack Savage to take no further action in this case until directed by the Board of Aldermen.

The difficulties which brought about the necessity for the abandonment of the portions of Payton and Harlan Roads have served to focus the attention of the people of this great city to the many problems of finding ample living space for a large Negro population.

In order to prevent any reoccurrence of a similar nature as that in the Peyton Forrest Area, and in order to conform with the decision of the courts, I am asking the Board of Aldermen to take the following action at their regular meeting, Monday, March 4:

(1) That the Board of Aldermen instruct the City Attorney not to appeal the decision rendered by Judge Whitman.

(2) In order to assist in the handling of transitional areas in the City of Atlanta, I am requesting the Board to pass a resolution to create a special real estate commission of six real estate men charged with the responsibility of preparing a code of ethics covering the sale and use of property in such areas, so that peace and harmony may prevail among all races in the City of Atlanta.

(3) Further, I am requesting that the Board pass a resolution which will instruct the City Planning Department to immediately institute a complete and comprehensive study of all available land within the limits of the City of Atlanta

that in the past has been zoned for commercial and manufacturing establishments, for the purpose of determining which of said areas could properly and equitably be zoned for open housing.

(4) I am also requesting the Board to pass a resolution directing me, as Mayor of Atlanta, to call together the respective groups and parties at interest in the Peyton Forest area for the purpose of discussing and seeking a fair and just agreement on a voluntary basis to fix a cooling-off period for all parties concerned in the Peyton Forest disturbance; and, furthermore, that all parties at interest be urged to approach the difficulties presented with fair and open minds in an effort to reach a solution to the controversies which are now existing and which may exist in the future.